

I CLAIM:

1. A multi-directional switch comprising:
a button;
5 a first driver positioned behind the button;
a stabilizer positioned behind the first driver; and
a first deformable projection positioned behind the first driver,
wherein when a force is applied to the button the stabilizer engages the
first driver and the first deformable projection thereby displacing the first driver and
10 the first deformable projection in substantially a linear direction.
2. The multi-directional switch of claim 1, further comprising:
a second driver positioned behind the button and adjacent the first
driver; and
15 a second deformable projection positioned behind the second driver
and adjacent the first deformable projection,
wherein when a force is applied to the button the stabilizer engages the
first and second drivers and the first and second deformable projections thereby
displacing the first and second drivers and the first and second deformable projections
20 in substantially a linear direction.
3. The multi-directional switch of claim 2, further comprising:
a first contact positioned behind the first deformable projection; and
a first conductive plate positioned behind the first contact.
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4. The multi-directional switch of claim 3, further comprising an
electrical terminal header positioned behind the first conductive plate, the terminal
header comprising:
a first plurality of spaced apart and extending conductor pins at least
30 some of which are contacting the first conductor plate; and
a second plurality of spaced apart and extending conductor pins that
are electrically connected to the first plurality of conductor pins for coupling with an
electrical connector.

5. The multi-directional switch of claim 1, further comprising
a housing, comprising:
a fascia;
a shell attached to the fascia;
5 a back plate attached to the shell; and
a connector shroud attached to the back plate,
wherein the fascia includes an opening for receiving the buttons;
wherein the shell encloses the first driver, the stabilizer disk, and the
first deformable projection; and
10 wherein the connector shroud is adaptable for receiving therein, and
coupling to, a connector.
6. The multi-directional switch of claim 1, wherein the stabilizer is an
annulus.
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7. The multi-directional switch of claim 1, wherein the stabilizer is a
square.
8. The multi-directional switch of claim 7, wherein the square stabilizer
20 includes one of a square and rectangular opening cut out of the center of the square
stabilizer.
9. The multi-directional switch of claim 7, wherein the square stabilizer
includes a square opening cut out of the center of the square stabilizer and four cut-
25 outs extending from the corners of the square opening.
10. The multi-directional switch of claim 1, wherein the switch is mounted
in a motor vehicle for use in actuating a motor.
- 30 11. A multi-directional switch comprising:
a circular button;
four drivers positioned behind the circular button;
a stabilizer disk positioned behind the four drivers;
a deformable projection positioned behind each of the four drivers;

a contact positioned behind each of the deformable projections; and
a conductive plate positioned behind the contacts,
wherein when a force is applied to the button the stabilizer engages the
drivers and the deformable projections displacing the drivers and the deformable
projections in substantially a linear direction.

12. The multi-directional switch of claim 11, further comprising
a housing, comprising:
a fascia;
a shell attached to the fascia;
a back plate attached to the shell; and
a connector shroud attached to the back plate,
wherein the fascia includes an opening for receiving the circular
buttons;
wherein the shell encloses the drivers, the stabilizer disk, the
deformable projections, the contacts and the conductive plate, and
wherein the connector shroud is adaptable for receiving therein, and
coupling to, a connector.

13. The multi-directional switch of claim 12, wherein the switch is
mounted in a motor vehicle for use in actuating a motor.

14. A multi-directional switch comprising:
button means for receiving a force applied thereto;
driver means positioned behind the button means for transferring the
force applied to the button means;
deformable projection means positioned behind the first driver means
for transferring the force applied to the first driver means;
contact means positioned behind the first deformable projection means
for transferring the force applied to the first deformable projection means;
conductive plate means positioned behind the first contact means for
engaging the first contact means; and

stabilizer means positioned between the driver means and the deformable projection means for stabilizing the driver means and the contact means when the force is applied to the button means.

- 5 15. The multi-directional switch of claim 14, further comprising:
 housing means for enclosing components;
 fascia means attached to the housing means for covering a front of the
switch;
 shell means attached to the fascia means for enclosing the driver
10 means, the stabilizer means, the deformable projection means, the contact means and
the conductive plate means;
 back plate means attached to the shell means for covering a rear of the
switch; and
 connector shroud means connected to the back plate means for
15 receiving a connector,
 wherein the fascia means includes an opening for receiving the button
means.

- 20 16. The multi-directional switch of claim 15, wherein the switch is
mounted in a motor vehicle for use in actuating a motor.